

Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative

COMBINED MEETING: FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION WORK GROUPS

February 06, 2006 - 9 - 11:30 a.m.
Members Present: Megan Coyle, Elaine Davis, Barbara Gilkey, Sherri Jo McLemore, Gwen Paul, Martha Reeder, J. B. Robertson, Sorita Rusher, and Paula C. Watson.
Regrets: Jim Abson, Randy Glenn, Martha Hiett, Ginny Kurrus, Nicholas Long, Kathy Robinson, Lorie Williams, Loretta Wilson, and Nancy Yarbrough.
The meeting was called to order by Megan Coyle.
Agenda Item #1: QRS Update - Martha Reeder
<p>Discussion: Martha Reeder provided an update on the QRS process. She reported that the QRS Sub-Group worked on Level 2 at their last meeting. At the next meeting, they will continue to work on the recommendations Level 3 through Level 5. Megan Coyle has been invited to make a presentation at the QRS meeting on February 8. Martha pointed out that this joint group needs to continue to narrow down the recommendations. There were only three recommendations at Level 2 and it took two hours for the QRS group to process the three recommendations. At the next meeting, a full meeting date will be devoted to the QRS process.</p> <p>Martha noted that a contributing factor to the length of the deliberations was it is the first time they were taking into consideration recommendations that came from outside of the Sub-Group. The nine entities serving on the group have developed a sense of trust with each other so that they allow things to be put out there with adjustments to be made later. It is different for recommendations from an outside group. The Sub-Group wanted every detail spelled out, defined, and explained. Every piece of the puzzle had to be laid out.</p> <p>Martha stated that she thought that the recommendations from this group were well thought out and suggested that this group step back and look at how the recommendations fit into the QRS goals. The vote on the three recommendations was divided. For instance, under the self-assessment recommendation, some on the QRS group did not want to approve without viewing the exact self-assessment document. The reason this group recommended the SFI self-assessment tool (with modifications), when looking at the spirit of Level 2, it had the spirit of self-assessing.</p> <p>This group needs to construct a simple, clear and concise self-assessment document instead of proposing one that has not yet been modified and having them trust enough that you will follow through on the modifications. They need a sample of the actual concept of the self-assessment document.</p>

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Agenda Item #1, Continued: QRS Update - Martha Reeder

Discussion: Martha then distributed a sheet she composed that is divided into six different issues, thereby falling into six different categories relating to the SFI strategies. This is just a sample of what is needed. One of the items she found is from Nebraska. It focuses on the families and not the caregivers. In the tool kit there will be specific items that would help programs to make use of the tool. Any instructions and other information needed would be found in the tool it.

Following Martha Reeder's comments, the group began planning the modified self-assessment document, beginning with a grading system: It was agreed that the items would be selected based on the seven SFI protective strategies used by exemplary programs to support families. A sample of the document based on the suggestions is to be prepared by Megan Coyle and attached to the minutes. It was agreed that the self-assessment document would be called, the "Family Support Environmental Checklist." Megan agreed to also prepare the self-assessment instructions and action form.

It was suggested that Sorita Rusher also joint Megan in the presentation to the QRS Sub-Group if she is available.

Agenda Item #2: Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Discussion: The next meeting date is March 17, 2006, from 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. at the Cox Creative Gallery.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

RESULTING TASKS AND ASSIGNMENT:

- ? Megan Coyle will prepare the conceptual self-assessment document with instruction and action sheets and forward to Martha Reeder by February 8 for the QRS Sub-Group meeting.
- ? Megan Coyle will represent the joint work groups at the QRS meeting on February 8. Sorita Rusher will join her if she is available.
- ? Paula Watson is to send out the next meeting notice.